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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03810 191653Z

21
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 MMS-01 EA-06 ACDA-05 SAB-01

SAM-01 /087 W
---------- 124423
R 191515Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7599
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TALE: MARR
SUBJECT: INDIAN CORRESPONDENT SEES DELAY ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. THE MARCH 19 NEW DELHI STATESMAN CARRIES A FRONT PAGE STORY BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WARREN UNNA UNDER THE LEAD, "FORD LIKELY TO DROP DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT". THE STORY OPENS: "PRESIDENT FORD, FACED WITH DETERMINED OPPOSITION ON THE PROPOSED U.S. NAVAL AND AIR BASE ON THE BRITISH-OWNED INDIAN OCEAN ATOLL OF DIEGO GARCIA, IS NOW CONSIDERING PUTTING THE PROJECT ASIDE -- AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING". UNNA'S STORY ALSO ASSERTS:
-- THE PRESIDNET'S AIDES ARE TAKING SOUNDINGS IN THE CONGRESS WHILE THEDEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR FY 75-76 SO THAT THE DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT CAN GO AHEAD.
--THE PRESIDNET AND HIS AIDES MAY NOT WANT TO
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OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT WITH A FIGHT OVER DIEGO

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GARCIA CONSIDERING THE PROBLEMS OF GETTING
MONEY FOR CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.
-- THE RATIONALE FOR DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION WAS
PREPARED BY STATE AND DEFENSE EARLY THIS YEAR BUT
HAS BEEN HELD BY THE NSC STAFF FOR THE LAST
MONTH, INSTEAD OF BEING PUT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT
FOR HIS APPROVAL, WHILE DR. KISSINGER POLLS
LEGISLATORS ON HOW THEY MIGHT VOTE WERE THE
MATTER SUBMITTED TO THEM.
-- SO FAR INDICATION ARE THAT THE HOUSE WOULD
APPROVE, BUT THE SENATE WOULD REJECT DIEGO
GARCIA EXPANSION.

2. UNNA'S STORY, ALTHOUGH SPECULATIVE, MAY PROMPT SOME
QUESTIONS HERE. ARE THERE ANY FURHTER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PROGRAM WHICH WE SHOULD BE
AWARE OF?
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, DIEGO GARCIA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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